

Meeting Minutes
Council-Citizens Committee
Marina Park Design
Location: Council Chambers
2:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 30, 2007

1. **Welcome and Introduction.** Chairman Selich convened the meeting at 2:30 p.m. The following persons were in attendance:

Committee Members

- Mayor Pro Tem Ed Selich (Chair)
- Council Member Don Webb
- Tom Billings (Protect Our Parks)
- John Corrough (Harbor Commissioner)
- Bill Garrett (Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commissioner)
- Tom Olivas (Rep. for Girl Scout Council of Orange County)
- Billy Whitford (Rep. for sailing or rowing organization)
- Grace Dove (Neighborhood Rep.)

Committee Members Absent

- Council Member Michael Henn
- Randal Eling (American Legion Post 291)

City Staff

- Dave Kiff, Assistant City Manager
- Aaron Harp, Assistant City Attorney
- Wes Morgan, Recreation and Senior Services Director
- Chris Miller, Harbor Resources Supervisor
- Kim Rieff, Department Assistant

Consultants

- Dan Herman
- Mark Reader

Members of the public

- Greg Marchet
- Carter Ford
- Joyce (UCI)
- Dave Lambert (American Legion Post 291)
- John Reynolds (Commodore American Legion Post 291)
- George Wood, Newport Sea Base Director
- Tim Bundy (Bundy Finkel Architects)
- Richard Finkel (Bundy Finkel Architects)
- Laura Curran
- Alan Beck

2. **Reminder of Marina Park Design Committee's Role and Responsibilities**

Chairman Selich said we have two major responsibilities:

1. Assist City Council and City staff in reviewing the work product of consultants hired to design the Marina Park reuse project.
2. Advise the Council as needed as to community and stakeholder interests associated with the Marina Park reuse project.

Council Member Webb said when the committee met a year and half ago it discussed alternatives and came up with a compromise plan that combined different elements. We retained a landscape architect to go forward with the design. We have looked at options and alternatives and are taking the one selected and trying to go forward with the details.

In response to Chairman Selich, Mr. Herman said the September of 2006 plan is the most current plan. The idea behind the plan was to balance the needs in the harbor for a visiting vessel marina.

Chairman Selich asked Mr. Herman to explain the constraints involved in locating the channel exactly where it is and how the boundary between the American Legion property and Marina Park relates. Mr. Herman said the channel is down the center of the property line between the American Legion and the park property so half the slips in the channel are on park property and half are on the American Legion property.

3. **Review of Work Done Since Council Selected R/H Design**

Mr. Herman said the site was surveyed first followed by several meetings with the Parks and Recreational Services and then block plans were made. After this meeting and some direction from the Steering Committee a second cycle will be done. The Master Plan shows the Community Center and the Aquatic Center as two separate buildings but for operational efficiency, Parks and Recreational Services are interested in a single building. In the Master Plan the two-story building square footage was about 16,000 square feet and from the ground up slightly over 21,000 square feet. For the sailing program the plan is for 10-12 Sabots, 6-8 lido's and making sure there is plenty of space for laser racks and two coach boats. He said the Junior Sailing Program is a City program.

Mr. Herman said the Parks and Recreation asked if it was possible to have three tennis courts, less basketball courts, and less beach volleyball courts.

Mr. Herman said Cash & Associates looked at the Marina feasibility and did a Fatal Flaw Analysis that showed a number of water quality issues. They made suggestions to address their concerns.

Mr. Billings asked Mr. Herman if the hand launch area is still part of the plan and Mr. Herman replied that it is.

Mr. Morgan said changing the plan from two buildings to one was because of economic reasons. Council Member Webb said he likes having two separate buildings because it provides less massiveness and heating will be easier to manage. He also mentioned having a café on the second floor of one of the buildings.

Mr. Herman said the first meeting with the American Legion Board was a little positive about this concept but the second General Meeting was not. Mr. Lambert said the big issue is that it's not a good trade off for the Legion.

Mr. Herman said that the Parks Department would like the small water play area removed from the beach area because of operational issues. They also thought that the event plaza was not a valuable space for them for future programs. They would like more open space in the park than paved area.

4. Constraints/Hurdles/Opportunities

Mr. Herman said he would attempt to create a plan the American Legion would like and bring it back to the City and negotiate the new plan.

Chairman Selich asked if the plan did not work out with the American Legion would there be a practical park use for the rest of the marina land or some kind of a concept plan. Mr. Corrough said they could work on the park and marina concepts at the same time.

Mr. Herman said the pavilion size is a little bigger than what the master plan shows. It was suggested by POP that the building be kept small. Chairman Selich and Mr. Herman suggested we discuss the building issue at the next meeting.

Mr. Garrett asked about public storage of kayaks and canoes and is this part of the plan and does the building facilitate that currently. Mr. Herman replied we have gone away from that.

Mr. Whitford said one of the biggest needs in the harbor is a destination and programs were people don't need to own their own boat. There's a huge need for private storage for kayaks and the program boats.

Mr. Herman said we should look into having a variety of slip sizes for visitors.

5. Comments/Questions/Suggestions, including Outreach Opportunities/Ideas

Chairman Selich said two things must occur prior to the next meeting: 1) Mr. Herman will meet with the American Legion and 2) the committee should review all of the material on having one building or two buildings. Chairman Selich and Council Member Webb agreed that they would like two buildings.

Council Member Webb talked about why there is a need for 40 visiting boat slips.

Mr. Kiff said an issue not talked about yet is management. Mr. Corrough added getting into building, programming and security issues.

Public Comments

A member of the public said slips are needed for visiting yachtsmen but 27 slips are too many. There should be a big fee for boat storage and a good sandy beach.

Mr. Ford said he sees three major uses that need to be balanced:

- Park
- Marina
- American Legion

He thinks the property line should be established. He suggested the American Legion, the Marina people, and the parks people meet more often. He also thinks there is a great shortage of places to tie up small boats from 8 to 20 feet for the day.

Another member of the public said she would like to see more programs.

Ms. Curran said a wider sidewalk would be nice so three or four people could walk together, having bus access and using California friendly plants for the landscaping.

6. Adjourn & Set Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for June 27th at 2:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.